



For Immediate Release

In recent weeks, Sampson, the Zoo's 16 year old resident mountain lion underwent medical testing under anesthesia due to noticeable changes in physical behavior. Our Contract Veterinarian, Dr. Richard Mendoza performed a physical exam, ultrasound, blood draw and abdominocentesis. After receiving the test results, it appears that Sampson has congestive heart failure, along with severe osteoarthritis effecting his hips and back legs of which he has been treated for the past few years. Sampson is consuming some of his diet and vocalizing as normal but due to the extent of his medical needs over the next several days, he is being held off-exhibit in comfort care which will give his body a chance to react to the new medications that have been prescribed. At this time, we cannot predict the future for Sampson but can assure you that Dr. Mendoza, the Zoo Staff and I are doing everything we can to help him overcome this obstacle hopefully giving him more time with us and the community that loves him dearly!

The normal life expectancy of a mountain lion in captivity is 14-20 years and in the wild 8-13 years.

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Keith at 620-341-4365 or lkeith@emporia-kansas.gov